- **Extramural research projects of Department of AYUSH. The Council**

  — Awarded 34 research projects to different universities/ institutions in the areas of pharmacology, standardisation, clinical trials and safety evaluation

- **Collaboration/MOU with other scientific organisation**

  The Council signed Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative research with other scientific organisations like CSIR, Valabh Bhai Patel Chest Institute Lady Harding Medical College, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deccan Medical College, Hyderabad, Regional Research Laboratory, Srinagar, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

- **TKDL project of Department of AYUSH**

  — TKDL of 1,12,500 Unani formulations were identified from 14 Unani classics in 42 volumes.

  — 1,08,650 formulations have been scrutinized for developing a database of Unani therapeutics.

- **Capital Work**

  — Constructed own buildings for Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Hyderabad, Regional Research Institutes of Unani Medicine, Chennai, Srinagar.

  — Construction for New Buildings for Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Lucknow, Regional Research Institutes of Unani Medicine, Bhadrak and Patna and Regional Research Centre, Silchar (Assam) is under way.

It may be noted that the Unani sector in India historically suffers from a number of constraints. The basic concept of research on scientific lines, both in clinical and drug development was not available. Further, there is a paucity of trained human resources and quality partner institutes, lack of infra structure like land and buildings, low awareness of Unani medicine among the general public, etc.

Despite these constraints the performance of the Council has been considered as satisfactory by the Government. However, to ensure transparency and accountability in its functioning, the Department has decided to have independent evaluation of the functioning of the Research Councils/Institutes under it by reputed organizations/institutions.

Achievement of Fiscal Correction and Consolidation Targets by States

*368. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts by States to achieve fiscal correction and consolidation while seeking to stick to targets fixed under their respective Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL) have mostly failed during 2008-09;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report blamed this on change in fiscal priorities evidenced in the respective stimulus programmes designed to cope with the economic slowdown;

(c) whether States have also announced a number of policy initiatives in their 2009-10 budget by directing expenditure towards economic revival; and

(d) if so, the other main reasons for not achieving the fiscal targets and the suggestions made by RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) RBI has noted that the State Governments' efforts at fiscal correction and consolidation in terms of the path of fiscal restructuring prescribed by the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) and targets fixed under their respective Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL) suffered some setback during 2008-09.

(b) RBI has attributed the aforementioned setback to change in fiscal priorities that became necessary to accommodate additional expenditure to support fiscal stimulus in the face of shortfalls in revenue on account of the overall economic slowdown. Under the Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility, States were required to eliminate revenue deficit by 2008-09 and reduce fiscal deficit to 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 2008-09. Keeping the special circumstances in view, Government of India subsequently relaxed these requirements for 2008-09 as follows: elimination of revenue deficit was shifted to 2009-10 and the fiscal deficit target was raised from 3% to 3.5% of GSDP. The States were advised to suitably amend their FRLs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In its 2008-09 annual report, RBI has cited on-going global economic turmoil as the main reason for States not achieving fiscal targets. RBI has suggested curbing of wasteful expenditure and expenditure reorientation towards more productive expenditure, specific rules for debt and expenditure apart from focus on deficits, transparency in budgetary operations, exploration of counter-cyclical fiscal policy frame-work. For 2009-10, the Government of India has further relaxed the fiscal deficit target to 4% of the States' respective GSDP under Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility, and the requirement of elimination of revenue deficit for 2009-10 has also been relaxed.

Purchase of Aircrafts by Air India

†*369. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has placed orders to purchase 111 aircrafts?

(b) if so, the details of aircrafts delivered so far, out of them; and

(c) the number of aircrafts which have still not been used for passenger services even after their delivery along with the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.